

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 IO-10 AF-06 EUR-12

ACDA-10 AID-05 EB-07 /100 W
----- 110297

O R 261253Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6047

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 1780

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON-BASED ISRELI PRESS ON AFTERMATH OF
BREAKDOWN IN TALKS

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE IN MARCH 26 JERUSALEM
POSTBY WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT WOLF
BLITZER:

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S GOVERNEMTN IS SEEKING
TO PREVENT U.S.-ISRELI RELATIONS FROM DETERIORATING INTO OPEN
CONFRONTATION WHICH ISRAEL FEARS WOULD ONLY PLEASE
THE ARABS, THE SOVIETUNION AND ISRAEL'S OTHE ENEMIES.
(PARA.) ISREL AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ WAS
SCHEDULED TO MMET LATEYESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS
JERUSALEM' CONCERN AT PRESS REPORTS EMANATING FROM
WASHINGTON ALLEGINGTHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PRIVATELY
PLACING THE MAJOR BURDEN OF THE COLLAPSE IN KISSINGER'S
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LAST ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY ON ISRAEL, NOT EGYPT.

(PARA.) ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ARE PUBLICLY AVOIDING PLACING PUBLIC BLAME FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS IN WASHINGTON THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDS ISRAEL'S POSITION DURING THE TALKS AS TOO INFLEXIBLE. (PARA.) IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW THIS ASSESSMENT OF THE BREAKDOWN WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO FUTURE U.S. POLICY. (PARA.) STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT REASSESSMENT OF MIDEAST POLICY WOULD EVENTUALLY RESULT IN LESS AMERICAN AID FOR ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH THEY INSISTED THAT COMPLETE CUT-OFF WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

(PARA.) SECRETARY KISSINGER APPEARED YESTERDAY MORNING BEFORE A CLOSED SESSION OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO BRIEF THE REPRESENTATIVES ON HIS MIDDLE EAST SHUTTLE. (PARA.) BUT BEFORE THE HEARING WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION, REP. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL CHARGED THAT KISSINGER WAS PRIVATELY BLAMING ISRAEL FOR THE BREAKDOWN, EVEN THOUGH PUBLICLY HE WAS EVENHANDED. ROSENTHAL, A LEADING DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK, SAID KISSINGER HAD BRIEFED THE AMERICAN NEWSMEN ON THE AIRPLANE FLIGHT RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN SHORTSIGHTED. (PARA.) KISSINGER DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO ROSENTHAL'S PROTESTATION, HE SAID ONLY THAT THIS WAS "NOT A TIME TO ASSESS BLAME." HE SAID THE U.S. WOULD STAND BY ALL ITS COMMITMENTS TO OTHER NATIONS, AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ISRAEL WHICH IS A MAJOR RECIPIENT OF U.S. ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. (PARA.) "NEW YORK TIMES" DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT BERNARD GWERTZMAN REPORTED THAT KISSINGER SEEMED UPSET BY WHAT HE REGARDED AS A SHORT-SIGHTED ATTITUDE IN ISRAEL IN NOT MAKING A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH. (PARA.) "ISRAEL'S INTERESTS WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SERVED." GWERTZMAN REPORTED KISSINGER AS BELIEVING "BY MAKING A COMPROMISE RATHER THAN IN FACING THE ARABS IN A GROUP AT GENEVA." (PARA.) DINITZ SAID ONLY THAT THE U.S. HAS THE "LEVERAGE" OVER EGYPT AND ISRAEL NEEDED TO RESULT IN ADDITIONAL PROGRESS.

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(PARA.) GENEVA IS A PLACE FOR DECLARATIONS, HE SAID, NOT A PLACE TO MAKE PEACE. (PARA.) HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST ROLE HAS NOT ENDED, INSISTING THAT HE WAS A "VERY IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT." IN THIS REGARD, DINITZ SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE IN SEEKING PEACE.

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(PARA) BUT SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THE SECRETARY HAS NO INTENTION OF REVIVING HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, EVEN THOUGHT ISRAEL MIGHT BE ANXIOUS TO SEE HIM RETURN TO THE AREA.

(PARA) THE OFFICIALS SAID A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS THE MOST LIKELY NEXT STEP, ALTHOUGH THEY REFUSED TO SPECULATE WHEN THAT MIGHT OCCUR. ONE OF THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE REASSESSMENT OF U.S. POLICY WOULD CENTRE AROUND A NEW AMERICAN POSITION TO BE ADOPTED AT GENEVA, AND HOW MUCH SUPPORT IT SHOULD GIVE ISRAEL.

(PARA) MARILYN BERGER OF THE " WASHINGTON POST" REPORTED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS ON THE KISSINGER PLANE HAD LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT ISRAELIS MAY HAVE BROUGHT THEIR TROUBLES ON THEMSELVES BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS THAT AMOUNTED TO TURNING IN A NEW DIRECTION TOWARD PEACE.

(PARA) BERGER SAID KISSINGER HAD SENT MESSAGES TO ABOUT 30 COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION EXPLAINING THE BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS. HE REPORTEDLY USED VERY GENERALIZED TERMS, BUT BERGER QUOTED INDEPENDENT SOURCES AS SAYING KISSINGER HAD GIVEN " FUL CRDIT" TO EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S WILLINGNESS
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TO SEEK COMPROMISE WHILE REMAINING SILENT ON THE ISRAELI STANCE.

(PARA) CBS CORRESPONDENT MARVIN KALB REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT THE NEW U.S. REASSESSMENT IN POLICY WOULD BE TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL, BUT TOWARD ISRAEL " IN PARTICULAR."

(PARA) HE SAID IT MIGHT LEAD TO A MORE " EVENHANDED" AMERICAN POLICY IN THE FUTURE AND A REDUCTION IN AMERICAN AID FOR ISRAEL.

(PARA) AMBASSADOR DINITZ SUGGESTED YESTERDAY THAT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY NOW FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS NOT A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE--"A MINI U.N. -- BUT A REVIVAL OF THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

(PARA) KISSINGER HAD REPEATEDLY WARNED ISRAEL OF THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES THAT COULD RESULT AT GENEVA, INCLUDING FURTHER INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION OF THE JEWISH STATE.

(PARA) HE ALSO WARNED THAT AMERICA'S OTHER ALLIES--EUROPE AND JAPAN--WOULD PRESSURE THE U.S. TO LESSEN ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

(PARA) MEANWHILE, DINITZ AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. CONTINUE TO MOUNT A MASSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AIMED AT EXPLAINING THE ISRAELI POSITION TO AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION.

(PARA) DINITZ HAS BEEN MEETING WITH SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS, COLUMNISTS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL AMERICANS.

(PARA) YESTERDAY, HE SUMMONED ALL THE ISRAELI CONSULS GENERAL IN THE U.S. FOR A ONE-DAY MEETING AT THE EMBASSY TO BRIEF THEM ON THE SITUATION AND TO PLAN STRATEGY. HIS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS ON SUNDAY NIGHT FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. WAS TO MEET WITH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS.

(PARA) HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ISRAEL NOW FACED THE MOST DIFFICULT INFORMATION CHALLENGE IT HAS EVER FACED. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING IS SEPARATE JERUSALEM POST STORY FROM WASHINGTON FILED AFTER MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND AMB. DINITZ:

4. BEGIN TEXT. (PARA) FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ SAID THE SECRETARY DOES NOT BLAME ISRAEL FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS. DINITZ AND KISSINGER MET FOR 45 MINUTES LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST.

(PARA) DINITZ SAID THE MEETING WAS NOT HELD IN A " CRISIS ATMOSPHERE."

(PARA) AMBASSADOR DINITZ ALSO SAID YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING
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WITH KISSINGER, THAT RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CERTAINLY COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. END TEXT.

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